(d) the steps taken by Government to check the production and sale of sub-standard pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Approximately 40,000 metric tonnes of technical grade pesticides were consumed in the country in 2004-05. The Registration Committee, constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968, has granted more than 50,000 Certificates of Registration. The Licensing Authorities in the State Government issue licenses for manufacture of pesticides on the basis of such Certificates of Registration.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government have enacted the Insecticides Act, 1968 to regulate, *inter-alia,* the manufacture and sale of insecticides. The Registration committee, constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, registers pesticides only after being satisfied of its efficacy. Quality assurance of pesticides is ensured through regular drawl and analysis of pesticide samples through a network of Insecticides Inspectors, Insecticides Analysts and Pesticides Testing Laboratories. The Act provides for adequate penal provisions for meeting out punishment to farmulators, manufacturers and sellers of sub-standard pesticides.

Releasing new varieties of pulses by ICAR

308. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ICAR is going to release some of the new varieties of pulses to sustain in various agro-climatic zones of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how those new varieties are different from the existing ones?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Twelve varieties of different pulse crops including three varieties of chickpea, two varieties each of pigeonpea and mungbean, and one variety each of lentil, fieldpea, cowpea, mothbean and horsegram have been

identified, on the basis of their performance in the All India Coordinated Research Projects, for release by the Central variety Release Committee.

(c) Chickpea varieties are superior in grain yield and have large seeds. One of these varieties, BDG 128, developed for central zone is kabuli and the other two, BGM 547and Phule G 9425-9, developed for North Western Plains Zone are *desi* types. BGM 547 is further identified for late sown conditions. Pigeonpea variety CORG 9701 has large seed with early maturity whereas NDA 98-1 is resistant to wilt and sterility mosaic diseases. Mungbean variety HUM 16 has large seeds and suitable for summar cultivation after harvest of wheat as it matures in 60 days whereas NDM 97-1 has better seed size and resistance to yellow mosaic virus disease. Lentil variety VL Masoor 507 has large seed size resistance to rust. Fieldpea variety IPFD 1-10 has short duration and escapes terminal drought. Variety of cowpea, Co Vu-702, has bold grains and is specifically suited to southern States. Mothbean variety, CAZRI Moth-3 and Horsegram variety AK-42 are suitable for arid zone.

Flood/drought assistance to States

f309. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the loss of life and property due to floods and droughts that hit different parts of the country recently, State-wise;

(b) the amount of financial aid provided by Government, State-wise;

(c) whether Government scrutinize the expenditure of money provided to States to prevent floods; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) No Memorandum for assistance for drought in the wake of South-West Monsoon, 2005 has been received from any State Government. Jharkhand has, however, declared drought in 22 Districts while Government of Andhra Pradesh have also notified continued drought conditions in 644 Mandals. The extent of loss, if any, have so far not been reported by these States.

Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal Ministry for matters relating to floods and necessary information is being collected from them.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.